

## Learning Design Workshops – Report

*"I have to say that it was one of the best courses I have attended ever!"*  
(Participant at Oxford Sharing the LOAD Learning Design Workshop, December 2006)

Four one-day workshops were held in November and December 2006 in London, Cambridge, Nottingham and Oxford. There were 109 attendees in total, comprising 81 participants, 22 students, 5 facilitators and 1 visiting artist. The workshops were free of charge to colleagues in UK HE and FE. Reasonable travel expenses were reimbursed and students received a £50 bursary.

The workshops comprised a mix of short presentations and small group work designed to engage participants directly with the principles and practicalities of learning objects and real-world learning designs. A practitioner questionnaire was completed by all participants to provide baseline information on their current use of learning technology.

In addition to RLO-CETL, staff from 10 other CETLs and 1 Subject Centre attended. Participants came from many regions of the UK, including Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, showing that the workshops had been widely advertised. The range of disciplines represented was very broad with a good cross-section of sciences and humanities. Participants had a range of roles including academic, administrative and learning technology/development. Students were undergraduates, masters and doctoral students.

20 learning designs were created, encompassing a broad range of topics from medical diagnostics through copyright to language learning. Up to 3 of these designs will be taken forward and exemplified in more than one subject. A number of participants have expressed an interest in continuing this work.

Evaluations showed that the workshops were well received. Using the standard RLO-CETL workshop evaluation form, participants were asked to score 5 questions on a range of 1 – 5 (1 = "poor", 5 = "excellent"). Overall, three workshops scored an average of 4.1 and one 4.5, the latter higher score largely achieved through the standards of refreshments and lunch being scored more highly than the others. Typical comments were: *"Very enjoyable pace and interesting group of people"*, *"Excellent workshop - working with other practitioners on a specific task was vastly useful"*, *"Useful day, amazing how much we did in a day!"*, *"Very well structured and delivered. Appreciated practical element"*. Suggestions for topics for future workshops included: *IMS Design (reload); Technical aspects of creating RLOs; Using different RLO generating tools; Digital rights and RLOs; Accessibility; Online assessments; Sharing good practice; Editing and updating LOs; Reusable learning designs for online courses.*

Conclusion: The workshops have fulfilled their objective of introducing participants to the principles of learning objects and have given them first-hand experience of creating learning designs. They have attracted the requisite number of participants and students and have been delivered on time and within budget. They have been highly evaluated and sufficient (20) designs have been created such that several may be selected for future development into exemplars.