

Repository/Portal Reviews

Key features:

Interface

- **Meets accessibility standards***
- Public portal
- **Upload workflow***
- Embargo/private/public
- **Mobile friendly (HTML5 players, etc)***
- Social media (embed/share content)
- Site search
- ANGEL integration
- Ease of use

File format

- **Support for a variety of media including SCORM packages and newer formats***
- **DRM (Creative Commons)***

Admin

- **Granular user roles***
- **Granular organization (categories/subcategories)***
- LDAP
- **Reports/Analytics***
- **CSS/Design***

Flexible content (*share content across resources, download, etc.*)

- Harvest/Ingest resources from elsewhere
- Batch loading of resources
- Support a variety of metadata schemas
- **Share content across categories/groups***
- **Downloadable content***

Technical

- **Support including upgrades/migration***
- **Sustainable/Active development (prefer mature product with strong community)***
- **System reqs supportable***
- **Hosted on our server***
- Scalable

***Required**

All other features listed are preferred. As we know that ANGEL is end-of-life, we may have to find workarounds. Seamless integration seems unlikely, but LDAP may be of use.

SCORM is listed as requirement, but file support varies across products. Some software such as Dspace will allow the addition of new file formats or zipped files which are just added as is vs.

unpacked.

If a product failed any of the required features, it moved down or off of the list for this investigation cycle.

Top Contenders: Equella, Omeka, Dspace

Still need to review: CollectiveAccess <http://collectiveaccess.org/> (no information about SCORM)

Commercial:

BePress

<http://www.bepress.com/>

- Brief description: Cloud based commercial repository tool

Cons:

- cloudbased; proprietary

Pros:

- Worldwide repository /search; nice user interface for searching. social media support; openaccess

Viable:

- Unlikely; cloudbased; seems very textual materials oriented

BBXplor / Blackboard Learn

<http://www.blackboard.com/sites/xplorinfo/index.html>

- Brief description: Cloud based, new repository tool from Blackboard supports complete content collections as defined by the IMS Common Cartridge specification.

Cons:

- Very early development; cloudbased; proprietary

Pros:

- Integrates with Blackboard; possibly ANGEL (LMS “agnostic” or “neutral”); supports licensing; sharing of content; openaccess; accessibility; version control (reduce duplication of content) ; user interface is intuitive

Viable:

- Ruled out; too early in development; cloudbased
- Blackboard learn - just the LOR aspect as standalone? perhaps.

ContentDM

<http://www.oclc.org/contentdm>

- Brief description: Cloud based or hosted new repository tool from OCLC supports content collections and strong metadata support. No support for learning objects (yet) – considered a future goal.

Cons:

- Older repository software; no current support for learning objects

Pros:

- Strong metadata support; sharing of content; openaccess; accessibility; ; user interface is intuitive

Viable:

- No

DigiTool

<http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/category/DigiToolOverview>

- Brief description: Hosted commercial repository tool from ExLibris (major library software vendor) supports metadata support, multimedia. Need a demo site set up to see more.

Cons:

- User interface seems clunky.

Pros:

- Unknown; need to contact company to evaluate.

Viable:

- Unknown, but user interface does seem clunky.

Equella

<http://demo.equella.com/athens>

- Brief description: Hosted commercial repository tool supports WAI Accessibility standards and SCORM. SCORM packages can be uploaded and will unpack (*R note: could not get the demo to work with SCORM packages from Softchalk including samples from the softchalk website. Equella is investigating as no problems have previously been reported with Equella and SCORM packages. I was able to upload a SCORM package as an "attachment"). ANGEL integration.

Cons:

- Expensive; workflows have to be built for EVERYTHING including a contact form, so installation and implementation would take some time

Pros:

- Integrates with Blackboard and ANGEL (LMS "agnostic" or "neutral"); supports licensing; sharing of content; openaccess; accessibility; user interface is not as intuitive but could be customized; SCORM package unpacking, strong technical support on their side; strong support for metadata; HTML5 players; mobile support; can add MIME types (add media file formats)

Viable:

- Yes; Seems to meet our needs best in terms of basic requirements

Desire2Learn

- <http://www.desire2learn.com/products/learning-repository/>

Brief description: Hosted commercial repository tool supports accessibility standards and SCORM. Seems to be tightly integrated with Desire2Learn's LMS. There is a separate e-portfolio product.

Cons:

- Proprietary; seems very integrated in Desire2Learn's LMS (have not explored further).

Pros:

- Supports licensing; sharing of content; openaccess; accessibility; SCORM package unpacking, strong technical support on their side; seems very user friendly.

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Viable:

- Perhaps – Needs more exploration in terms of whether it has any ability to work outside of the Desire2Learn suite.

OpenText

- <http://www.desire2learn.com/products/learning-repository/>

Brief description: Commercial repository tool very focused on DRM control. No mention of LMS integration and seems very enterprise oriented; closed system.

Cons:

- Proprietary; DRM support, granular controls, seems to be very closed

Pros:

- DRM support; no advantages that I can see.

Viable:

- No.

Opensource:

Avalon (Hydra head)

- <http://www.avalonmediasystem.org/>

Brief description: Hosted opensource tool built on Ruby on Rails. No support for accessibility standards or SCORM yet, but they are interested in partnering with an institution. Great product for multimedia but really seems early in development.

Cons:

- Needs considerable programming support to setup which would involve Nick and Robin learning Ruby/Rails to support, setup and configure. Doesn't seem to natively support zip files.

Pros:

- Supports licensing; sharing of content; openaccess; seems very user friendly. Active opensource community support with several major universities involved; portal interface is beautiful; strong multimedia support; strong Mobile support.

Viable:

- Unlikely within the time limits of the grant and given the development that would need

to occur for the LOR/Portal.

Dspace

<http://www.dspace.org/>

Brief description: Hosted opensource tool; very popular repository software ; used by USG and others. THECB (The Texas Higher Education coordinating board) is working on learning objects and SCORM; currently does supports learning objects as an zipped file. Supports WAI Accessibility.

Cons:

- Opensource, questionable support of SCORM (unsure of whether we could unpack, but can upload; R has contacted Texas HE for information about their submission form which was being developed in 2012 for SCORM packages)

Pros:

- Strong user community; supports licensing; sharing of content; openaccess; seems very user friendly. Active opensource community support with several major universities involved; support for multimedia

Viable:

- Potentially; it does meet most of our needs, but not to the extent that Equella does.

Eprints

<http://www.eprints.org/>

Brief description: Hosted opensource tool; older repository software. SCORM packages can be uploaded as zipped files as attachment

Cons:

- Opensource, very little support for multimedia, SCORM

Pros:

- Supports licensing; openaccess

Viable:

- No, primarily text based; user interface is seriously lacking

Fedora

<http://www.eprints.org/>

Brief description: Hosted opensource tool; older repository software. No support for SCORM or learning objects at this time.

Cons:

- Opensource, SCORM support

Pros:

- Supports licensing; openaccess; multimedia; meets accessibility; nice user interface; strong community support

Viable:

- No

Hydra

<http://projecthydra.org/>

Brief description: Hosted opensource tool built on Ruby on Rails. Much the same as the Avalon issues listed above. No support for accessibility standards or SCORM yet, but they are interested in partnering with an institution. Great product for multimedia but really seems early in development.

Cons:

- Needs considerable programming support to setup which would involve Nick and Robin learning Ruby/Rails to support, setup and configure.

Pros:

- Supports licensing; sharing of content; openaccess; seems very user friendly. Active opensource community support with several major universities involved; portal interface is beautiful; strong multimedia support; strong Mobile support.

Viable:

- Unlikely within the time limits of the grant and given the development that would need to occur for the LOR/Portal.

Indico

<http://indico-software.org/>

Brief description: Hosted repository tool focused on working papers and other textual documents. Very early development (2013-)

Cons:

- Very textual materials oriented; very early development

Pros:

- None over other products

Viable:

- No

Islandora (Drupal and Fedora)

Brief description: Hosted opensource tool of 2 software: Drupal for portal and Fedora for repository software.

Cons:

- Needs considerable programming support to setup and overall, the same issues as Fedora. Given that it is Drupal + Fedora, potential issues with migration due to conflicts between the 2 products.

Pros:

- Supports licensing; sharing of content; openaccess; seems very user friendly. Active opensource community support with several major universities involved; portal interface is beautiful; strong multimedia support; strong Mobile support.

Viable:

- No

Omeka

<http://omeka.org/sandbox/admin/users/login> ; gorgeous Omeka site

<http://floridamemory.com/>

Brief description: Hosted opensource tool; very popular repository software used by a few LORs.

Cons:

- Opensource, questionable support of SCORM (unsure of whether we could unpack, but could upload by adding a new MIME type)

Pros:

- Strong user community; supports licensing; sharing of content; openaccess; accessibility; seems very user friendly. Active opensource community support with several major universities involved; support for multimedia; can add new MIME types

Viable:

- Potentially; it does meet most of our needs, but not to the extent that Equella does.

Others

enosha (small project; couldn't get demo site to work): <http://www.e-learning.lk/node/15/>

DOOR: (seems to be slow development)

ArchivesSpace (seems to be more of a tool to catalog print materials?)

<http://www.archivesspace.org/>

Expression Engine/Drupal (traditional CMSes, but may possibly have a LOR community within ; extremely unlikely to integrate with LMS).

Compiled by Robin Fay, 2014, Portal Manager