



Case Study

DISCOVER AN ONLINE NETWORK AND COMMUNITY FOR DIGITAL RESOURCES WITH EQUELLA AS A REGIONAL REPOSITORY.

BCcampus

BCcampus is a public post-secondary agency that services the 25 public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia.

Utah Education Network

The Utah Education Network is a consortium of public education partners, including the Utah System of Higher Education and its ten universities and colleges.

Benefits of a Regional Repository

Regional repositories allow educators and students to access learning and research content beyond the boundaries of institution-based systems, and discover the wealth of knowledge other institutions within their community or region can offer. Regional repositories not only promote academic cooperation, but allow easy, efficient and readily available access to educational content.

A Regional repository will enable institutions to:

- Save time and expenses through the collaboration of educational content with continuous sharing, managing, updating, and reusing of content.
- Gain recognition and a wider audience for the educator's individual work beyond their immediate community borders.
- Develop stronger productivity and results for educators and students, who can access information that is high quality, and widely availability within an extensive educational circuit.
- Collectively create, store, manage, and provide access to original research materials across a network of institutional virtual learning environments.
- Access readily available core research content within a central collection, which can then be accessed via tightly integrated VLEs.
- Utilise various collections that hold different commissioned learning content, including Reference Collections of electronic textbooks and digitised slide images.
- Search for and discover valuable resources that were left unused and underutilised, which are now easily and readily accessible.
- Ensure your institution's content reaches a wider, more open audience, and achieves further input from extended users.

EQUELLA

EQUELLA is a Digital Repository that incorporates Learning Objects, Learning Content Management and integrated content authoring. EQUELLA has been implemented within a wide variety of Universities, Community Colleges, Schools and Corporate institutions.

An Effective Solution

As eLearning technologies continue to rapidly evolve, many institutions worldwide are experiencing the challenges of content management. EQUELLA provides an efficient and beneficial solution to institution's online requirements, which ensures the user's needs are met.

EQUELLA creates an eLearning infrastructure that allows curriculum materials including videos, documents and web pages to exist independently of their host course structure within a regional repository that archives this source material.

Through integration with various VLEs, EQUELLA can be used to harvest digital items within a library collection, such as scanned images, documents, videos and other media, ensuring all learning materials are maintained and used accurately and efficiently.

Providing students and educators with access to high quality learning and research content, EQUELLA ensures that institutions comply with various copyright regulations. The regional repositories extended availability increases the public value of research content, which is more widely and openly accessed, with no limits of location, or time. Regional repositories develop long term access and preservation of online content, extending the opportunities for all types of users.

HOW WILL EDUCATORS BENEFIT:

- Share content across multiple courses and institutions and develop effective online and distance eLearning resources.
- Limit the time you spend on course creation and management with source material that is continuously contributed, shared, managed and updated.
- Minimise the time spent on challenging VLE uploading by accessing the most accurate, and up to date information available in your region.
- Simplify the process of collaboration amongst fellow educators across various institutions.
- Develop a productive educational circuit and promote academic cooperation with open access resources.

"We found the maturity of the EQUELLA solution enabled us to quickly achieve our goals and helped reduce the risk of implementing a large scale project. Our organisation was impressed with its features, functionality and flexibility, as well as its seamless integration with existing repositories and course management systems." - Scott Leslie, Client Services Manager, BCcampus

BCcampus shares online resources across 25 institutions with SOL*R

The implementation of EQUELLA allows BCcampus's public post-secondary educators to license, contribute, and access free online learning resources. Using EQUELLA BCcampus developed SOL*R (Sharable Online Learning Resources), which is used to share content from four different LMS's at 25 different institutions. The regional repository was created to manage an online development fund that ensures users share their content with other institutions within BC or more widely through the use of a Creative Commons License. BCcampus have built an online environment that facilitates approximately 1000 resources from full courses to learning objects.

In addition to providing a regional repository to benefit the entire post-secondary system, BCcampus also identifies, develops, and promotes information and communication technologies that connect valued services to institutions.

The initiative aims to provide flexible, responsive and tailored access to educational resources and services using a federated approach to connectivity throughout the regional institutions, whilst reducing the financial strains and building efficiencies with collaborative and shared service models. BCcampus is committed to the emerging trends of educational technology and customizable online learning, developing and sharing educational resources and expertise by encouraging an open and accessible network. EQUELLA ensures a secure and trusted resource network throughout the region, supporting safe collaborations and partnerships between institution's, educators and students that leverage knowledge, skills, research, resources, and supports

Benefit for Researchers

- Obtain quick, efficient, highly accessible, quality digital research content across the region.
- Network with other researchers in the region to access the most accurate and beneficial resources.
- Add value and credibility to both your own and other's publications through collaborative and continuous research.
- Develop an effective and productive educational research circuit.
- Utilise an open repository that provides a public source of research resources for searching and harvesting by network institutions.
- Achieve broader audiences for your published research with an open access repository.
- Increase individual research citation counts, while operating in a repository with an Open Research Policy.

Utah Education Network utilises EQUELLA as a Regional Repository

Utah Education Network (UEN) provides a regional repository to an association of public education partners, schools, colleges, universities and libraries, ensuring collaboration and extended educational opportunities for educators, students, researchers and librarians. The UEN includes the Utah System of Higher Education, its ten universities and colleges and Utah eLearning Connection; the Utah State Office of Education, local school districts and the Utah Electronic High School and, the state's Library system.

UEN uses EQUELLA to distribute licensed digital learning content to users throughout the state. The collection contains full length American Public Broadcasting System, local PBS programming, media from the Utah Instructional Media Consortium, as well as full-length PBS documentaries. The collection now contains over 20,000 images, audio files, videos and teacher guides. UEN's eMedia service is integrated with WebCT, Blackboard and Moodle, all of which are hosted at the Utah Education Network. For the past two years, UEN has been a part of a pilot project to create a nationwide PBS digital repository. In the upcoming year, UEN will harvest this collection, continuing the growth of the eMedia digital repository.

Powering eMedia

"The UEN regional repository, eMedia, is powered by EQUELLA and is extending the availability and reach of educational media in Utah. Every day over 1,000 educators access the digital repository to download videos, podcasts, images and teacher's guides which aid in effective instruction. EQUELLA makes delivering this content easy and efficient. Enabling users, educators and students to access and utilize these materials, EQUELLA is extending the reach of UEN's digital repository. Content is available for download and use in a traditional classroom or in a learning management system, " - Katie Garrett, Digital Media Specialist, Utah Education Network.

