

A Condensation and Review of Various "Learning Object" Activities and Efforts

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The phrase "learning objects" appears to have replaced the phrase "learning resources."

A keynote speech at E-learn 2002 described a major effort in Canada under the direction of Canarie. At E-learn 2000, several professors from Acadia University presented learning object-like materials, and were not aware that in the same day, a brief paper was presented on the IEEE P1484 standards efforts which focuses on Learning Object Metadata. And, none of these presentations made reference to the further work of Berners-Lee in W3C (the MIT-based effort to extend web functionality to enhance information retrieval and learning).

Also at the AACE 2000 conference, Prof. Senese presented a paper describing how chemistry students could remotely operate chemical apparatus at-a-distance.

What do all these efforts have in common? Our paper provides a framework which distinguishes between "elemental learning objects" and learning objects capable of full web-wide usage via "methods," "properties," and "inheritance." We suggest that a coherent framework will greatly increase the generation of learning tools by eliminating overlapping efforts.